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amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, I can't let this opportunity go to express my dissatisfaction with this particular proposal. I think that the state aid to community colleges was a very efficient and effective way to bring property tax relief. It met criticisms that we had had from a variety of sources that previous efforts to provide property tax relief weren't efficient enough, the community college property tax relief was dollar for dollar, and it went to persons all across the state of Nebraska. It gave community colleges relief from what many people thought were unacceptably high property tax levies for their support. I think in part that was...that will again be an issue for the community colleges and they might not enjoy the local support that I think they really need to be viable institutions when they go back up to having higher property tax levies as a result if we do the committee's recommendations. I understand that when the program was initiated as part of a bill that there were those who said this is not going to be ongoing money and that's true. But that doesn't keep us from wishing, in some respects, that it was ongoing money. And in some respects, it just seems to me to be a little too easy, in this instance, to do something that will raise property taxes while we do not look for other resolutions. I'm not saying that to criticize the committee. I think they...I know that they went through the state agencies and that's a long, time-consuming process, and if there was something else they could have done, I am assuming that they would have discussed it. But I guess if we don't have that discussion on Select File about possible alternatives to this reduction, we might never know. And I don't know whether I am competent to dig into the bowels of the budget and find someplace where I thought we could change spending priorities and to the magnitude that is proposed here, but I'm hoping that somehow we're able to make that effort or to understand exactly why this is the only thing that we could do because, in fact, this will cause somebody's taxes to increase and one of the problems we have had recently is folks saying that they don't want any tax increases of any kind. We've had people saying they don't want a sales tax increase. I'm assuming they will also tell us we don't want a property tax increase that this proposal would represent.